

SENATE VOTES PENSION LAW

Government Employees to Benefit By Passage of Sterling Retirement Bill.

The Senate late yesterday afternoon paved the way for the retirement legislation for employees of the Government who have reached the age of seventy years or who have become disabled through sickness or accident after fifteen years' service.

It passed the Sterling civil service retirement bill after adopting an amendment presented by Senator Smoot advancing the age of retirement from sixty-five to seventy years.

Viva Voice Vote. The bill was passed by a viva voce vote. It was the first time that such legislation has received the approval of either house. It will now go to the House, where a bill similar to the original Sterling bill, with the sixty-five-year age limit, has already been reported favorably by the committee on reform in the civil service.

Congressman Lehigh of New Jersey, chairman of the committee, declared last night that he believed the bill would pass the House as reported by his committee. This would result in a conference and possible compromise in favor of the employees.

The Sterling bill as passed applies to all employees in the classified civil service, employees of the District government, employees of the Library of Congress, and superintendents of national cemeteries, and permits the President to extend its terms to include employees not classified at the time of the passage of the act. An employee must have been in the government service at least fifteen years to benefit by the terms of the act.

Annuities Vary in Amount. The annuities to be paid vary from \$180 to \$720. A sum equal to 2 1/2 per cent of the employee's basic salary, but not including bonuses, is to be deducted monthly to aid in forming the annuity fund. The total cost of the retirement plan the first year, he said, would be \$4,584,000 under the committee bill with the sixty-five-year limit, and \$2,051,000 under his amendment with the seventy-year limit. In the seventy-fifth year, he said, the total cost of the plan under the committee bill would be \$37,000,000, and under his plan \$18,000,000. He figured the total cost for seventy-seven years under the committee bill as \$2,475,000,000, and under his amendment, \$1,000,228,000.

BOOST IN COAL HITS RENTERS

Apartment Owners to Raise Rates 20 Per Cent Here, Is Prediction.

Just when Washingtonians were figuring on a downward movement in the costs of rentals for rooms and apartments, the announcement that there is to be an increase of from \$1.75 to \$2 a ton on bituminous coal has changed rosy visions to gloom.

Owners of apartment houses this morning declared that the increased cost of coal would bring about a 20 per cent increase in the cost of upkeep for apartment houses, which naturally would affect rents.

It was pointed out, however, that if the increased cost of coal is only temporary, it may not affect rentals. An official of one of the largest trust and real estate companies in the Capital stated today increased rents would affect, principally those occupying the small apartments, the cost of coal being a big item in their maintenance.

United States District Attorney John E. Lasky is investigating a report to the effect that members of a coal dealers' association in the Capital held a meeting last Wednesday, and agreed on an increase of from \$1.75 to \$2 a ton on all bituminous coal.

The District Attorney yesterday received a communication from Attorney General Palmer to investigate all complaints of profiteering in coal in the Capital, and to prosecute coal profiteers under the Lever act.

William P. Helm, Jr., an official of the National Coal Association, which represents the soft coal operators in Washington, said yesterday that the nation is confronted with a serious shortage of coal, due to transportation difficulties.

HEARING ON HALF-AND-HALF PLAN TOMORROW

Hearings on the half-and-half law and the 1 1/2 per cent tax rate imposed on the citizens of Washington in the District appropriation bill as passed by the House will be confined to two hours before the Senate District Appropriation subcommittee tomorrow.

Senator Curtis states that not more than two witnesses will be heard as representing the citizens of the District. They probably will be Theodore W. Noyes and H. B. F. Macfarland.

There is no question that the Senate subcommittee will be rigidly opposed to any change in District fiscal policy at present.

EASTER GREETING

By THE RT. REV. ALFRED HARDING, Bishop of Washington.

Easter is the oldest of all the Christian festivals, and each first day of the week, the Lord's day, is a little Easter, both having been kept from the beginning in joyful commemoration of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on the morning of the third day after His Crucifixion. This great fact is of supreme worth to every true Christian. It certifies the truth of all the claims and all the teaching of our Lord.

And it, in turn, is testified to by the new life manifested in the members of His body, the church, of which He is the living Head and King. It has abolished the old inscription formerly placed over the entrances of Roman cemeteries in pagan times, namely, the word "Fuerunt," They have been. It has brought life and immortality to light and the assurance not only that the dear departed ones live, but the sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection for all the faithful. Easter, coming as it does in the spring time, with all its significance in the awakening of the trees and the flowers and plants to a new life, brings to us the greater truth, of which the spring time is a symbol, of the certainties of the resurrection of our mortal bodies.

May this Easter bring rich consolation to all mourners and a greater faith in Him "Who liveth and was dead, and behold He is alive for evermore."

PRESIDENT MISSES FIRST EASTER SERVICE

For the first time in eight years, President Wilson remained away from Easter services today.

He spent the day resting in the White House. This was a disappointment both to him and to churchgoers, who had hoped he would appear at services today, either at the Central Presbyterian Church, of which he is a communicant, or at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church, which Mrs. Wilson attends.



PHOTO BY CARL THOMER.

Washington disciples of Dame Fashion awakened this morning to find the veracity of the weather man vindicated. Rain—in sufficient volume to preclude the possibility of an Easter parade—had been falling for half the night.

And so the old nursery rhyme, "Rain, rain, go away, come again some other day," might have found ready application to milady's thoughts as she gazed from her boudoir window. Connecticut and Pennsylvania avenues, Sixteenth street, and other fashionable promenades which would have been the setting for a dazzling array of springtime's daintiest and loveliest apparel, were like the streets of the proverbial deserted village.

But withal there was a resplendent showing of elaborate gowns, wraps, and millinery at the various churches and in the hotel lobbies. Attendance at the services arranged in the many Washington churches was at its maximum. The hotels were gayly decorated with spring blossoms and afforded a brilliant setting for the exhibition of milady's wardrobe.

The above photograph is a composite of what might have been if Old Sol had appeared. The Times' photographer was busy the past week, and herewith are some of the "latest" as they were snapped in dress rehearsal.

Pickles Winner At Bowie And Succumbs To Heart Disease At End of Race

Just as Tantalus crossed the wire, a winner, at the Bowie race track yesterday afternoon, Z. F. McGill, of Troy, N. Y., who held a \$50 pari-mutuel ticket on the horse, dropped dead from heart disease.

As the cries of the thousands of spectators subsided at the end of the race, and Tantalus was posted a winner, McGill, who was standing near the rail, was seen to fall. Death cheated him of his winnings—his \$50 ticket was worth \$90.

McGill, said to have been a familiar figure about race tracks, had every confidence in the going of Tantalus, and he had urged friends to bet on the horse. His sudden death cast a gloom over many spectators for a time, but after his body had been carried away, the racing continued as though nothing had happened.

McGill's body is at an undertaker's establishment at Bowie, and will be sent to his home in Troy today.

Rain Dampens Easter Togs, But Not Spirits Of D. C. Celebrants

Drizzling rain, accompanied by the lowest temperatures for a week, made today the gloomiest Easter Sunday Washington has known in a decade. Rain fell during the night and throughout the morning, with every indication that it would continue throughout the entire day.

Gloomy Outlook for Tomorrow.

But withal there was a dazzling array of Easter finery in evidence at the various churches, where special services attracted unusual crowds. The hotels also drew large crowds and presented a pretty spectacle of spring blossoms, dainty frocks and millinery.

Children watched the skies eagerly for some indication that the weather will clear before the morrow to permit the usual Easter Monday egg rolling contests on the Washington Monument grounds and at the Zoological Park. The weather forecasters, however, held out but little hope of good weather for tomorrow, predicting continued rain and falling temperatures.

The congregations at the various churches were interesting, as usual, not only for the spring millinery, but for the personality of the worshippers. For those who may say that Easter has lost its sartorial dignity, let it be said that in several years at least has there been such a resplendent showing of dainty spring finery. A veritable maze of spring blossoms was the interior of all the churches, and these served as a brilliant setting for the new frocks and modish hats of the women. The men also were attired in spring suits of the new cuts and spring patterns.

Botanic Gardens Defy Rain. Despite the rain, the United States Botanic Gardens received hundreds of visitors. There are a half dozen varieties of magnolia trees in full bloom there, and huge beds of peonies in the gardens are on the verge of full bloom. Forsythia and crocuses are much in evidence at the Capitol and at the various parks.

All of the downtown hotels have arranged special musical programs for the afternoon, and presaging an unusual attendance the lobbies were crowded at noon today.

ACCUSED P. O. CLERK RIGHT, SAY WOMEN

Stating that they alone are responsible for the statements of fact contained in the brief submitted in their behalf to the Reclassification Commission, and reiterating their assertions as to the duty in which they work, women employees of the Mail Bag Repair Shop last night filed a statement with Postmaster General Burleson declaring the S. E. Blasingham, charged with misstatement of facts as to condition of employment in the Mail Bag Repair Shop "is in no sense responsible for the statements of fact contained in this written declaration, but acted merely as the employees' representative in accordance with the approved procedure of the Reclassification Commission."

Accompanying the statement is a letter to Postmaster General Burleson from Miss Ethel M. Smith, executive secretary of the Women's Trade Union League, who assisted in the drawing of the women's brief with reference to the Mail Bag Repair Shop, and who claims the sentences on which the charges against Mr. Blasingham are based as her own phraseology, intended to describe the conditions as stated by the women employees. The brief, she states, was formulated by her in collaboration with Mr. Blasingham, from their combined notes taken at the meeting.

Irish Sensation

McBride Players (50 people) direct from New York, where they have been shooting crowded houses fourteen months.

CITIZENS PROTEST BOOST IN TAX RATE

Bitter protest against the increase of the local tax rate and the abolition of the half and half plan was made last night at the meeting of the Federation of Citizens' Associations in the board room of the District building. A resolution was adopted calling upon the Senate committee for a hearing for representatives of the federation before action is taken upon the House District appropriation bill.

Lively discussion of the school situation was a feature of the meeting. The federation went on record as favoring no civil service examinations for school teachers, and as favoring administration of school and municipal affairs by Washingtonians.

Snowden Ashford, member of the school committee of the federation, rising to a point of personal privilege, protested attempts "on the part of a few members of the federation to shut off discussion of school matters," and to impugn the motives of fellow delegates regarding school questions.

The federation was placed on record a second time as opposing the zoning system of street car fares as sought by the Washington Railway and Electric Company in a resolution introduced by William McK. Clayton, chairman of the committee on public utilities.

KENNEL CLUB BENCH SHOW IS SANCTIONED

A telegram received yesterday by Chairman R. H. Atkinson, of the bench show committee of the Washington Kennel Club, states that at a meeting of the license committee of the American Kennel Club, held in New York city, approval was given the dates, May 7 and 8, set for the seventh annual dog show of the local club at the Coliseum over Center Market. A communication received by Charles A. Watson, secretary of the local committee, contained a long list of specials from the Hackensack Kennel Club of Hackensack, N. J., which is open for members of that organization.

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